Allergy Awareness & Promoting a Nut Safer School Statement

Primate Dixon Primary School

Reviewed Sept 2026

PRIMATE DIXON
PRIMARY SCHOOL
4 School Lane
Coalisland BT71 4NW
Telephone 028 8774 6044

BUNSCOIL
ARDEASPAG DIXON
4 Lána na Scoile
Oiléan an Ghuail BT71 4NW
Teileafón 028 8774 6044

www.primatedixonpscoalisland.org

PROMOTING ALLERGY AWARENESS & SAFER SCHOOL STATEMENT

At Primate Dixon Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child and adult are central to our work. Some members of our school community have allergies that can cause a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction.

We aim to promote a school environment that recognises and reduces risk to all.

We are therefore committed to promoting an **allergy-aware and nut-safer school environment**.

It is very important to emphasise that **allergy risk cannot be eliminated** and cannot be promised. Although every reasonable precaution will be taken, it is not possible to remove all allergy risks or guarantee an allergen-free environment. Our shared aim is to understand the risks, follow agreed procedures and work together to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Heightened awareness and best practice that reduce risk are the key aims of Primate Dixon.

All school staff have been consulted regarding policy and practice with comments welcomed.

Information about the policy has been shared with parents and again comments welcomed.

The policy will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year or earlier where needs, circumstances or relevant guidance change.

We want to do all we can to keep all allergy-affected children and adults safe.

We want to promote Primate Dixon as an ALLERGY-AWARE SCHOOL.

This is demonstrated through prominent signage through the school.

It is also communicated to parents by sharing this policy statement and through a letter at the beginning of each school year as well as on other occasions as appropriate.

Whilst it is our aim to promote and maintain the school as AN ALLERGY AWARE AND NUT SAFER SCHOOL, it is not possible to guarantee this.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE – KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE – THE PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM

The safety of all is of first importance in Primate Dixon Primary School.

No single policy statement describes the many aspects of school practice that help deliver this.

Rather we choose to regard the activities, the policies and the practice that contribute to this as essential elements of the **Preventative Curriculum**.

Promoting Allergy Awareness and a Safer School is a core element of the **Preventative Curriculum**. (Appendix 2).

PUPILS WITH ALLERGIES

We have over 600 pupils in Primate Dixon.

We are aware of a significant number of children and, indeed, staff with a wide range of allergies.

There are very likely to be others where these will develop.

For a number of these children and adults, their allergy is a life-threatening condition.

They are at risk of suffering anaphylactic shock if exposed to their allergy risk.

Anaphylaxis can cause death.

This is, therefore, a very critical policy and practice statement.

We aim to support pupils and help them as they grow and are able to take age-appropriate responsibility for the foods they can eat and recognise situations in which they may be at risk.

SCHOOL EPIPENS

Where a child has been prescribed emergency medication, parents or carers must provide the medication and ensure that it remains within its expiry date.

If a critical incident should occur, it is vital that Epipen auto-injector is available.

Detailed individual arrangements for this are in place as outlined in each Individual Health Care Plan.

In addition, our school has purchased two age-appropriate Epipens that are available if required.

These will be renewed at their indicated expiry date each year.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Effective allergy management depends on everyone working together.

Pupils, parents and carers, school staff, the School Meals Service, school nursing staff and other relevant professionals all have an important part to play.

The school will:

- gather and share relevant information appropriately;
- follow each child's agreed Individual Healthcare Plan;
- ensure that prescribed medication is accessible to authorised staff;
- promote age-appropriate allergy awareness;
- communicate clearly with families and the School Meals Service; and
- review arrangements when a child's needs or relevant guidance changes.

Parents and carers of a child with an allergy should:

- notify the school promptly and in writing;
- provide current medical and dietary information;
- supply prescribed medication;
- monitor expiry dates and replace medication when required; and
- inform the school immediately of any change in diagnosis, treatment or advice.

All families should:

- avoid sending nuts or nut products into school;
- avoid sending food to be shared with other children; and
- remind children not to share food or drinks.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Our School Leadership Team promotes awareness of school's **Promoting Allergy Awareness Policy**. Our School Team includes a teacher with responsibility for coordinating and managing policy and practice: Mrs Fionnuala Hanna.

AWARENESS OF FOOD ALLERGIES

The importance of an **Allergy Aware & Safer School** environment is promoted to all parents.
Parents are the first reporters of children's allergy vulnerabilities.

Arrangements are in place for the safe classroom storage of **EpiPens** and other medication as part of our **Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs Policy**.
EpiPens or other medication prescribed for pupils will be stored in their own storage box that is clearly labelled with the child's name, date of birth and their photograph.
Along with their EpiPen/medication, the pupil's Individual Health Care Plan is contained within this box.
In all cases this box is stored in the top, right-hand shelf of the teacher's store. The store door is never locked.
Allergy Alert Discs will be fixed to the door where the class has an affected pupil and also prominently on the teacher's store door.

Staff, classroom assistants and teachers, who have immediate responsibility for these children receive training through the Education Authority Centralised Training Programme. The most recent training took place on 25th September 2026.

https://send.eani.org.uk/support-services/medical-needs/information-schools/support-available-schools

STAFF AWARENESS

At the beginning of each school year, as a whole staff, we share information to promote awareness of the personal needs of pupils. This is also reviewed when any new need arises.
Staff will follow this Allergy Aware Policy both in school and on out-of-school visits and activities.
Staff will **not bring in nut products into classrooms**.
It has long been a school tradition that staff have shared treats with classes throughout the year.
Staff will be vigilant that all products going into classrooms are allergy-safe.
Class activities include food making and preparation at various times.
Caution must be taken to ensure that items are allergy-safe and consistent with each child's Individual Health Care Plan.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

School Meals Service has a critical role in respect of Allergy Awareness practice and provision.

This service has its arrangements that are followed by Primate Dixon kitchen staff.

Information will be sought from parents of affected children so that the school can appropriately share this with staff and the **School Meals Kitchen**.

Photographs of these children are prominently displayed within the kitchen's serving area.

The school's Allergy Awareness Coordinator will manage sharing of pupil information.

Just as Primate Dixon cannot guarantee a Nut Free school, we recognise that similarly School Meals Service advises caution in this regard.

It is important to note the Education Authority's letter in regard to: 'Nut free' school declarations dated 2nd December 2021. (Appendix 4)

PUPIL CARE PLANS

Where we receive appropriate medical information about with individual children with food or other allergies, supportive **Care Plans** are drawn up **in agreement with parents**. (Appendix 1)

These include:

- **an attached Individual Health Care Plan that has been provided by a doctor**
- all **necessary contact details**
- the **management of EpiPens,** inhalers and other medication, including storage and access;
- expiry date information regarding medication and EpiPens
- and **any other required actions.**

If parents have been medically advised that there is a risk of anaphylaxis the information provided should include an Individual Health Care Plan supplied by a suitably qualified medical officer.

Parents must supply **appropriate dietary information** to be passed to the **School Meals Kitchen**. The form for this is available from the School Office.

Within school and classes and away-from-school activities, children with allergies will not be provided with any 'safe product' by the school that contradicts an Individual Health Care Plan.

BIRTHDAY CAKES & OTHER FOODS

To reduce the risk of accidental exposure to allergens, we ask that food is not be brought into school for distribution or sharing among pupils. This includes birthday cakes, sweets, treats and food prepared for celebrations.

Families are also asked to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that packed lunches and snacks do not contain nuts or nut products. Children should eat only the food provided for them and should not exchange or share lunchbox items.

We recognise that celebrating birthdays is important to children.

We will, on one day each year, have a 'Big Birthday Day' here in school.

We will provide a nut-free cake to every class and celebrate everyone's birthday on that day.

PARENTS OF OTHER CHILDREN

Information in regard to school practice has been shared with parents.
This includes information not to bring in or send in any food for SHARING IN SCHOOL.
This includes birthday cakes as well as all other sweets, treats, etc.
We recognise that this may feel restrictive, however, there are children in school with life-threatening conditions.
In order to protect them, it is essential to strictly follow this policy.

We ask for the support and cooperation of parents in ensuring that **LUNCHBOX ITEMS do not contain nut or nut product**. We are very grateful to pupils, parents, staff and all others across our school community in **promoting Primate Dixon as a Nut Safer School**.

OTHER PUPILS

Our pupils are understanding, caring and supportive towards each other. This is a very important and recognisable aspect of the culture of Primate Dixon Primary School. We are proud of their caring attitude to others – and we affirm this to them often.

Pupils are encouraged to be aware in an age-appropriate way about the need for care in this matter and other risks to health and well-being. Healthy Eating has long been promoted in the school. We have found that children can also be great educators of ourselves and their parents.
We urge children to eat all of their lunch each day and not to share lunch box items.
This may seem extreme but it is important in guarding against another child taking something that may be life-threatening for them.

This policy will be provided to parent or carer of children with allergy vulnerability.
Policy is also available to any parent who requests it and is available published on the school website.

It is very important to stress again that, whilst we will issue information to school participants and parents, promoting Primate Dixon as a Nut Free School, this cannot be guaranteed.

Other Information & Guidance

https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs.pdf (p71-75)

www.anaphylaxis.org.uk

http://www.sparepensinschools.uk

Appendix 1

Primate Dixon Primary School
4 School Lane
COALISLAND BT71 4NW
~~Telephone 8774~~ 6044 Fax 8774 6124
PRINCIPAL: Mrs Siobhán Murphy

PUPIL INFORMATION & ACTION PLAN

PUPIL'S NAME		D.O.B	
Class		Class Teacher	

Date of Birth		Phone Nos.
Parent/Guardian		
Address		
Doctor		
Nurse		
Other Medical Contact		

Description of Need (including medication needs - use by date to be recorded)
Action To Be Taken
Advice/Comment of Parent/Guardian
Additional Specific Advice Attached Yes No
Is it necessary that all staff are aware of this pupil's needs? Yes No

Plan agreed on _____

Teacher: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Classroom Assistant: _____ SENCO: _____

A COPY OF THIS PUPIL PLAN SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE TEACHER'S DESK FOLDER AT ALL TIMES.

Pupil Information & Action Plans are in place for children with specific medical needs.

These needs may be long or short term.

All Plans are completed and agreed initially in consultation with parents/guardians.

Plans will be reviewed and agreed at the beginning of each school year.

It is essential that parents inform the school of any changed circumstance or advice.

Information will always be treated with confidence.

Information will be shared on a 'Need to Know' basis.

The following staff should be aware of Pupil Plans:

Class Teacher (incl. Substitute Teacher) & Classroom Support Staff

Year Co-ordinator

First Aiders

School Principal

A register of copies of Plans will be maintained by Miss Devlin (SENCo).

TOGETHER WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS WE WILL ALWAYS SEEK TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.

A COPY OF THIS PUPIL PLAN SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE TEACHER'S DESK FOLDER AT ALL TIMES.

APPENDIX 2

The Preventative Curriculum in Primate Dixon includes –

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Guidelines
- Staff and Other Codes of Conduct
- Safe Employment Practice
- Safe Management of Personal Data
- Steps to Wellbeing (Hi Five Primary resources)
- Trauma Informed and Nurture Principles
- Listening to Children – School Council
- Listening to Parents – School Discussion Group
- Whole Staff Discussion
- RSE Policy
- Internet, e-Safety & Social Media Policies
- Mobile Phones & Other Devices Policy
- Pastoral Policies & Arrangements
- Addressing Bullying Policy & Positive Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Risk Assessment Arrangements
- Safe Movement Into and Out of School
- Accident & Incident Management
- Managing The Medical Needs of Children (including Anaphylaxis)
- **Promoting Allergy Awareness and a Safer School**
- Safe Through the School Day Routines
- Access and Visitor Arrangements
- Working with Outside Agencies
- Curriculum: PDMU, Circle Time

APPENDIX 3 – PARENT INFORMATION LETTER

PRIMATE DIXON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

4 School Lane

Coalisland BT71 4NW

Telephone 028 8774 6044

www.primatedixonpscoalisland.org

BUNSCOIL

ARDEASPAG DIXON

4 Lána na Scoile

Oiléan an Ghuail BT71 4NW

Teileafón 028 8774 6044

22nd September 2026

PROMOTING AN ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

Some children in our school have severe allergies. For a small number of children, exposure to an allergen may cause anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

At Primate Dixon Primary School, we are committed to doing all we reasonably can to reduce this risk. With the support of our pupils, families, staff and School Meals Service, we aim to maintain an allergy-aware and nut-safer school environment**.**

We ask all families to support the following arrangements:

- Please do not send nuts or nut products into school in packed lunches or snacks.
- Please do not send birthday cakes, sweets, treats or other food for sharing.
- Please remind your child to eat only their own food and not to exchange or share food or drinks with others.

Our pupils consistently show kindness and care for one another. We know they will want to help protect their friends. They are always a credit to their families in this way.

Although the school takes reasonable precautions, we cannot guarantee a completely allergen-free or nut-free environment. Working together, however, we can reduce avoidable risks to ensure everyone's safety.

The school's **Promoting an Allergy-Aware and Safer School Policy** is available on the school website and from the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions about this letter or would like other information, please contact us at the school.

Siobhán Murphy

APPENDIX 4

2 December 2021
'Nut free' school declarations

Dear Principal

It has come to the notice of Environmental Health colleagues that a number of schools are issuing statements that they are 'nut free', in an effort to control risk for those pupils affected. Although the school catering service does not use nuts or products containing nuts in any recipes, we cannot claim to be nut free.

Various products are used in recipes that do not contain nuts or nut derivatives, however the food packaging on these products include 'May contain' or 'Produced in a factory where allergens are present' statements. This is called precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) Precautionary allergen labelling checklist | Food Standards Agency. To help consumers make safe and informed choices, food businesses may voluntarily provide this information about the unintentional presence of allergens.

The catering service procure a high volume of food items from various suppliers. Frequent substitutions and product reformulation create the task of removing items with PAL from the kitchen extremely difficult. To ban all of these would also restrict the foods that could be offered through the school meals service and in packed lunches, potentially affecting the legal requirement to meet nutritional standards for school lunches for all other pupils who avail of these, particularly pupils entitled to a free school meal.

Allergy UK do not recommend banning nuts at all, as it is a very difficult guarantee to make and could potentially cause greater risk by creating a false sense of security. https://www.allergyuk.org/back-to-school-campaign/faqforparents.

Environmental Health has advised that schools who wish to be 'nut free' should have a written policy of their own including the specific control measures in place for example, food sharing, rewards in class, packed lunch policies etc.

The catering service continue to provide meals for all special dietary requirements including pupils with nut allergies. The following guidance is available to support schools in relation to special dietary requirements of pupils:

https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/school-meals/dietary-requirements.
If you have any questions in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact your Area Catering Manager to discuss further.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Briggs
Head of Service – EA Catering